

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Karl Ondersma on 8 November 2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 38, line 15, replace the phrase "a respective feeding cylinder" with --the respective one of the feeding cylinders--.

In claim 42, lines 1-2, replace the phrase "the rotating slides" with --each rotating slide--.

In claim 42, line 2, replace the phrase "a rotation axis" with --its respective axis of rotation--.

In claim 46, line 2, replace the phrase "rotation axis" with --axis of rotation--.

In claim 46, line 3, replace the phrase "rotating axis" with --axis of rotation--.

In claim 50, line 2, delete the phrase "in particular".

In claim 51, lines 1-2, replace the phrase "the rotating slides are" with --each rotating slide is--.

Cancel claim 57.

In claim 60, line 3, in the phrase "providing a thick materials pump," replace the word "a" with --the--.

In claim 67, line 2, replace the phrase "a piston" with --at least one of the pistons--.

In claim 68, line 2, replace the plural "phases" with the singular --phase--.

In claim 72, line 2, replace the plural "pauses" with the singular --pause--.

In claim 73, line 2, replace "operational" with --operating--.

In line 1 of each of claims 75, 76, and 77, change their dependence from "claim 1" to --claim 38--.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the limitation in claims 38 and 60 that the rotating slides have axes of rotation offset from the axis of their associated cylinder is not shown in the prior art in combination with the remaining elements of those claims.

3. Further, the examiner notes that the amendments to the drawings and the specification are considered supported and enabled by the original disclosure.

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US Patent 4,730,545 to Eickmann teaches an axial piston machine having a valve structure (see Fig. 9) similar to that claimed by the applicant. However, the valve structure is designed to interact with a rotating cylinder block, and as such it would not have been obvious to combine the valve structure with a pump having stationary cylinders as claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PHILIP STIMPERT whose telephone number is (571)270-1890. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 7:30AM-4:00PM, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Devon Kramer can be reached on (571) 272-7118. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Devon C Kramer/
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Unit 3746

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Examiner, Art Unit 3746
8 November 2011